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# TRANSMITTAL FORM

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Total Number of Pages in This Submission

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Application Number     | 10/694,588             |
| Filing Date            | October 27, 2003       |
| First Named Inventor   | Dörrie et al.          |
| Art Unit               | 3679                   |
| Examiner Name          | Gregory John Binda     |
| Attorney Docket Number | INA-PT080 (4134-18-US) |

## ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form<br><input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply<br><input type="checkbox"/> After Final<br><input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request<br><input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request<br><input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application<br><input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Petition<br><input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application<br><input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation<br>Change of Correspondence Address<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____<br><input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): |
| <input type="text"/> Remarks  |   |  |

## SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

|              |                        |          |        |
|--------------|------------------------|----------|--------|
| Firm Name    | VOLPE AND KOENIG, P.C. |          |        |
| Signature    |                        |          |        |
| Printed name | Randolph J. Huis       |          |        |
| Date         | 12/28/2004             | Reg. No. | 34,626 |

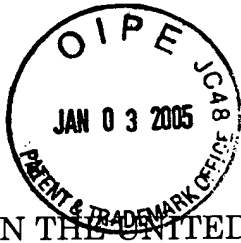
## CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below:

|                       |                  |      |            |
|-----------------------|------------------|------|------------|
| Signature             |                  |      |            |
| Typed or printed name | Randolph J. Huis | Date | 12/28/2004 |

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to be (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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IFW

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the **PATENT APPLICATION** of:

Dörrie et al.

**Application No.:** 10/694,588

**Confirmation No.:** 3750

**Filed:** October 27, 2003

**For:** COUPLING ARRANGEMENT

**Group:** 3679

**Examiner:** Gregory John Binda

**Our File:** INA-PT080

(4134-18-US)

**Date:** December 28, 2004

**REPLY PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.11**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Reply is being timely filed in response to the Office Action dated December 2, 2004 with an Election of Species Requirement.

The Office Action requires restriction between Species I, shown in Figures 1-13, and Species II, shown in Figures 14 and 15. Applicants hereby elect Species II, shown in Figures 14 and 15, for prosecution on the merits in this application, with traverse. Applicants note that the coupling arrangement of both species of the invention function in generally the same manner with first and second clamping rings having clamping bodies located therebetween. In the first embodiment, shown in Figures 1-13, the retainer is connected to the outer clamping ring, while in the second embodiment, shown in Figures 14 and 15, the retainer is connected to

**Applicant:** Dörrie et al.  
**Application No.:** 10/694,588

the inner clamping ring. The embodiments also differ in which of the inner and outer clamping rings acts as the slipper ring to effectuate the clamping action. However, the operation of the coupling arrangement is generally the same in either case.

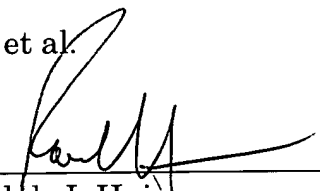
Applicants submit that claims 1-21, 23, 24 and 25 read on the elected species, and are currently generic.

If the examiner has any questions or believes that a telephonic interview would help to resolve any issues with respect to this application, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the examiner's convenience.

Prompt examination of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dörrie et al.

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RJH/dmm